

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 11 are amended as to form.

Claims 1-9 and 11 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

The position of the Official Action was that the word "type" renders an otherwise definite expression indefinite. Accordingly, "type" has been deleted from claims 1-4 and 11.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by FRITZEMEIER et al. U.S. 6,562,761 ("FRITZEMEIER"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

The claimed invention relates to a novel material for chemical vapor deposition (CVD).

Materials for CVD are usually precursors in the form of a liquid or precursor solvents, in a liquid phase of which particles are present that result from impurities including decomposed substances of the precursors. Therefore, when such materials for CVD are used, the resultant thin films are contaminated by the particles.

Applicants, however, have pursued further investigation and found that, with a material for CVD which has 100 or less particles having a size of 0.5 μm or more in 1 ml of liquid, in particle measurement by a light-scattering, submerged-particle detector in a liquid phase, contamination by particles is effectively suppressed.

In other words, the claimed invention specifies the number of particles having a specific size, among all the particles present in a liquid phase.

On the other hand, as is clear from the description at column 1, lines 59-61, "CVD is not considered a competitive method at this time, due to the very high cost of precursor materials.", FRITZEMEIER is unrelated to a material for CVD (i.e. non-analogous art to the present invention).

FRITZEMEIER discloses a dispersion composition obtained by dispersing precursor particles. The mention of "less than 50 nm" in FRITZEMEIER, as pointed out in the Official Action, is regarding the size of the precursors, and not the size of the impurities including decomposed substances from precursors in a liquid phase, which is referred to as 'particles' in the present specification. That is, in light of the present specification, precursors generate the claimed particles. See, for example, paragraphs [0006] through [0010].

Therefore, the claimed invention cannot be anticipated by FRITZEMEIER, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over PAZ DE ARAUJO et al. U.S. 6,511,718 ("PAZ DE ARAUJO"), and claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over PAZ DE ARAUJO in view of MATSUNO et al. U.S. 6,512,297 ("MATSUNO"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

As discussed with respect to the anticipation rejection above, the claimed invention specifies the number of particles having a specific size, among all the particles present in a liquid phase.

PAZ DE ARAUJO also discloses a material for CVD. However, what is specified in PAZ DE ARAUJO as being preferably 0.5 μm or lower is the particle size of a mist created from precursors, not the particle size of impurities including decomposed substances of the precursors in a liquid phase, as in the present invention.

Further, MATSUNO is silent about the size of particles.

In view of these facts, it is readily apparent that PAZ DE ARAUJO and MATSUNO, alone or in combination with each other, fail to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Therefore, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the foregoing remarks, the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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